

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 30-38, and 48-51 are currently pending in the application. An aspect of dependent claim 3 has been added to independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 30, 32, and 37, and dependent claims 3, 5, 9, 13, and 15 have been amended accordingly. All claim changes are made without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue any or all of the original claims and/or any other claims in this or a related application in the future. No new matter is introduced by any of the claim changes.

35 USC § 102(e) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-16, 30-38, and 48-51 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) over published U.S. Patent Application US 2003/0123779 to Hashimoto ("Hashimoto"). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that each of the amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 30, 32, and 37 recites, in part, a space is formed between said effected pixel region and said light-transparent cover. On page 3 of the Office action, it is asserted that "Hashimoto discloses a space is formed between the effective pixel region 14 and the light-transparent cover 32 (fig. 4a)." However, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 4a in Hashimoto, there is no "space" formed between the optical sections 14 and the transparent substrates 32. The area shown between the optical sections 14 and the transparent substrates 32 is actually the adhesive layer 36a. In fact, as described in Hashimoto, for example at paragraph [0093], "[t]he adhesive layer 36 and the transparent substrate 32 seal the optical section 14. **No gap may be provided between the adhesive layer 36 and the optical region 14.**" (emphasis added)

Furthermore, in lines 15-21 at page 19 of Applicants' specification, it is indicated that the space formed over the effective pixel region "prevents physical stress from acting on the effective pixel region. Also, the space "avoids a reduction in the light transparency between the light-transparent cover and the effective pixel region." Therefore, Hashimoto fails to teach or suggest at least this aspect of the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

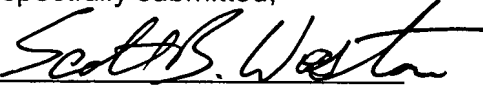
Applicants believe that no additional fees or extensions are required. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Office is conditionally authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**. Also, the Office should consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension period needed to have this response entered and considered, if any.

In view of the above amendment, applicants believe all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-16, 30-38, and 48-51) are in condition for allowance and request allowance.

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